

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-03 SAM-01 DRC-01

/052 W

----- 114077

R 250450Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5949

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7113

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK

SUBJECT: PAK QUERY REGARDING JOINT COMMISSION WITH INDIA

1 FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI ASKED TO SEE AMBASSADOR (BY WHOM THIS MESSAGE WAS DICTATED) SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE LAST NIGHT. SUBJECT HE WANTED TO TALK ABOUT WAS PROPOSED VISIT OF THE SECRETARY TO THE SUB-CONTINENT. HE SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER IS CONCERNED RE IMPLICATIONS OF RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR KAUL. KAUL HAD APPARENTLY SAID THAT SECRETARY'S VISIT TO INDIA WOULD BE DRAMATIC IN THAT IT WOULD INCLUDE ESTABLISHMENT IN OF A "JOINT COMMISSION" WITH SUB-COMMISSIONS OPERATING IN MANY FIELDS. SHAHI SAID THEY ARE CURIOUS ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE JOINT COMMISSION IDEA, BUT MORE CONCERNED OVER THE FACT THAT KAUL WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD MAKE "SIDE VISITS" TO PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH. ACCORDING TO THEIR REPORTS KAUL ALSO SAID THAT DURING THESE SIDE VISITS, MRS. KISSINGER WOULD TOUR INDIA.

2. AMBASSADOR REMARKED ON THE JOINT COMMISSIONS ALONG LINES LAINGEN HAD RECENTLY GIVEN PAK MINISTER
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RIZA AS CONTAINED IN STATE 157739. AMBASSADOR ELABORATED

SOMEWHAT, SAYING IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THE SECRETARY FELT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A COMMISSION COULD FACILITATE GETTING THINGS MOVING AGAIN WITH COUNTRIES WHERE OUR RELATIONS HAD NOT BEEN VERY GOOD. AMBASSADOR REMARKED HE COULD NOT THINK OF ANY CASE WHERE SUCH A PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENT HAD BEEN SET UP WITH COUNTRIES WHERE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE GOVERNMENT, ITS MINISTERS, ETC. WERE ALREADY FRIENDLY AND PRODUCTIVE.

3. THE AMBASSADOR SENSED THAT THE REAL CONCERN ON THE PAK SIDE WAS THAT SECRETARY'S VISIT TO AREA MIGHT BE CONDUCTED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO UNDULY "DOWNGRADE" PAKISTAN, AND IN THIS REGARD SHAHI INDICATED GOP MUCH DISTURBED ABOUT KAUL'S REMARKS ABOUT MRS. KISSINGER, WHICH IMPLIED SHE WOULD TOUR INDIA WHILE THE SECRETARY MADE SIDE TRIP HERE. AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD NO BACKGROUND ON THIS MATTER BUT WOULD REPORT GOP FEELINGS RE THE MATTER. SHAHI SAID HE HOPED THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING AS TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S INVITATION TO THE SECRETARY, SAYING BHUTTO IN HIS MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS ON SECRETARY'S MESSAGE HAD SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED HIS HOPE MRS. KISSINGER WOULD VISIT PAKISTAN.

4. BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WANTED HIS AND MRS. BYROADE'S HOPE ADDED TO PAKISTANI HOPES THAT MRS. KISSINGER WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPANY THE SECRETARY TO PAKISTAN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ISLAMA07113
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740201-0413
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740719/aaaaapsq.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Aug-2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAK QUERY REGARDING JOINT COMMISSION WITH INDIA 1 FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI ASKED TO SEE AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PK, IN, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005